Procrastination in moderation: A study break guide

Alex Kacik

Procrastination is good — in moderation. Some students fail to realize that procrastination can relieve stress and aid studying. In fact, small study breaks may provide an extra push that could translate into a carefree break rather than a long ride home spent contemplating excuses to explain lackluster grades to parents.

Studying takes on an entirely new definition prior to finals week, especially at Cal Poly. Students study for hours on end, frantically attempting to cover the material they missed throughout the quarter.

Thankfully, from a run around the track to playing a round of golf on Wii Sports, there are plenty of ways to give the mind a break. Close your book, put that highlighter down and take a 10- or 30-minute study break idea that can add some variety to finals week.

Create art at the Craft Center
Head to the University Union across from Poly Escapes to throw a pot, make jewelry or customize a skateboard deck. The Craft Center offers classes that teach anything from surfboard shaping to jewelry-making.

Students take periodic breaks throughout the week to systematically work on projects. Cal Poly civil engineering sophomore Kenny Song said, who recently made a T-shirt at the Craft Center using bleach and a stencil. The Craft Center is also an excellent spot to socialize, he added.

"If I have half an hour between classes I don't go home, I come here," Song said. "It's a good place to learn from other people who are willing to share their ideas."

The Craft Center provides a relaxed environment with the resources and space to explore one's creativity. A yearly pass costs $2. It is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and 12:30 to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Peruse Facebook or YouTube
It's just too easy. In fact, most students probably have the social networking site at the top of their bookmarks or Favorites list. Discovering the recent gossip, cyber-stalking an ex or catching up with an old friend is just a click away via Facebook.

Cal Poly materials engineering sophomore Kyle Keilly said he falls victim to Facebook especially when he is writing an essay or studying on the computer.

"I check Facebook about every two minutes when I study," said Kellis Poly animal science senior Allison Yim. "I'm curious to find out what all the talk is about regarding that jager bomb guy or that kid who dances around with a light saber! Then YouTube is the place for you. YouTube offers millions of streaming videos that can add some much-needed laughter to those anxious study sessions.

Visit the Cal Poly arboretum
Need to get away from the computer? The Leaning Pine arboretum, tucked away in the north end of campus at the Environmental Horticultural Science unit on Via Carta, highlights the world's five Mediterranean climate regions: Australia, California, Chile, the Mediterranean basin and South Africa. The arboretum features a variety of trees, shrubs and other landscape plants; it's ideal for a leisurely stroll or just a place to stop and think.

Students can enjoy self-guided tours using the Garden Walk guide that follows numbered stops throughout the gardens.

Climb the Poly Escapes rock wall
Scaling the state-of-the-art Climbing Wall outside Poly Escapes will provide an adrenaline rush that is tough to find inside a textbook. Experience the thrill of mountain climbing without risking your safety. Access is free to Cal Poly students and Poly Escapes provides shoes, a harness and a helmet. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Visit the Mustang Lanes
Want to bowl a frame or hustle some amateurs at pool? Just down the way from Poly Escapes in the UU is San Luis Obispo's only bowling alley, Mustang Lanes, which provides 10 bowling lanes, arcade games and eight full-size pool tables. See Break, page 3
Break
continued from page 2

If you are looking for a late-night thrill, try cosmic bowling on Saturday nights.
The Mustang Lanes are open every day from early morning to late in the evening.

Go to a park
Looking to tap into your inner child?
Visit a local park and swing like you used to in the good old days.
"I like to go to the park (off Tank Farm Road) and play on the swings," Cal Poly chemistry sophomore Anthea Sekfali said.
Throw a Frisbee around or play some catch until you are ready to hit the books.

Take a Recreation Center class
Exercise can help relieve stress during the crunch of finals.
Recreation Center classes such as Flip-Flop, Yoga and Pilates allow participants to physically challenge themselves in a friendly environment.
Cal Poly English junior Kellen Dickinson said classes help her be more productive and are good social outlets.
Students and faculty can purchase $5 day passes for exercise classes.

Play ping pong in the dorms
Need a reason to crash the dorms?
Make friends with a dorm-residing freshman or a resident advisor and partake in a game of ping pong.
Ping pong may not be the most athletic sport, but it provides an excellent distraction from studying. It is a game anyone can pick up and play. Not only will ping pong satisfy a person's competitive drive, it will ensure bragging rights to the victor as well.

Hike Bishop Peak or the "P"
Put on some boots and scale Bishop Peak, located on Highland Drive past the residential area.
Students can bike, rock climb, hike or run as they observe the wildlife and indigenous vegetation.
Bishop Peak rises to 1,456 feet above sea level and was named because it was thought to resemble a Bishop's miter.
The "P," behind the residence halls, features two main trails — one significantly steeper than the other — and is popular among students for day and night hikes.

Take advantage of Recreation Center facilities
Take a break from studying and head to the Recreation Center to test your athletic skill. Stand at yourself in the mirror as you curl dumbbells in the gym, shoot some hoops or play some beach volleyball. Or take your skills to the racquetball courts, where quick reflexes can make the difference between a narrow miss or a gigantic circular welt courtesy of your competitor.

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Prospects low but not hopeless for fall grads

Alex Kacik

Due to the recent economic downturn, Cal Poly fall graduates may need to work a little harder to obtain coveted jobs. Projected national college recruiting for the class of 2009 has fallen to the lowest levels seen in the past six years, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Job Outlook, 2009 Fall Preseason Survey. The poll reflects responses from 146 employers.

"There will always be entry-level jobs for the students, but maybe we won't do as many negotiating offers," said Carol Moore, career services program coordinator and career counselor.

In the past, many students would come in with three job offers and contemplate which to take while considering perks such as free cars, benefits and free cell phones, Moore said. "That is going to be over," she said. "Students are going to be grateful to have a good job offer and it may take a little longer — instead of getting one before you graduate, it may take three months out.

In August 2008, employers predicted an overall increase in hiring of 6.1 percent for the '09 class according to the survey. However as of October 2008, the hiring increase dropped to 1.3 percent. Alex, more than half of the respondents plan to decrease their number of new college hires during the 2009 recruiting season than they hired from the '08 class.

"We usually have many more employers on board for recruiting, today compared to last year," Moore said. "That doesn't mean that at the end of the recruiting season that we won't have as many because we don't know, but usually there is a big push (now)."

The decrease in recruitment may relate to companies "tightening their wallets as far as travel," said Melinda Carras, career services employer relations and recruiting manager. "The numbers are down from last year.

Rather than the usual college hiring increase in most employer types and geographic regions, recent economic events have decreased virtually all employers' college hiring expecta­
tions during the 2008-2009 recruiting year, according to the survey. Also, employers will re-examine their hiring needs more fre­quently.

But this doesn't mean that students should alter their studies to cater to a successful market, said Brian Tierie, Oraldea College of Business associate dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor of marketing. Students need to be passionate about their field of study.

"Don't try to predict where the de­mand is going to be and make yourself into that," he said. The economic recession will result in a more competitive job market, but Moore is confident that students will find jobs.

"It's interesting because it can be so hard and it can be so simple," she added. "If you just keep professional, dress up on time, respect your bosses, you know, these simple little rules that we learn growing up ... You don't have to be a genius. Make people feel good about themselves around you. All that time you younger professionals can learn and then you have so much more to take to the next place.

Students sometimes lack the interviewing skills, resume skills and etiquette necessary to secure a premier job, said Tierie. Students use test-message lines, fail to write thank you cards and come to interviews ill-prepared, he added.

"In this environment, instead of something that just counts against you, it may become a real plus," said Tierie.

In past years that companies aggressively hire, companies may have taken a chance on that type of person, but now they are looking for "anything to eliminate you", he added.

Dan Walsh, college of engineering senior associate dean of academic programs and administrations, said that many fall graduates have a job locked up by October and students are often involved with the company during their tenure at Cal Poly.

"The graduates are still getting multiple offers and it's not just the very high GPA's and getting very high offers; it's pretty much across the board," he added.

Tierie shared a similar sentiment.

"It could be that the number of firms that come to Cal Poly and formally recruit, maybe that number drops a little bit," he said. "I think the companies that come here consistently will still come here this year. Maybe instead of hiring four employees, they will hire two.

Graduate school is a viable option that will better prepare students for challenging jobs, Walsh said.

"The more advanced degrees you have, the better your opportuni­ties are because you have horizontal flexibility and vertical mobility; the more things you get exposed to, the better situation you have, he said. "This is particularly true in a time of scarcity. The more niche, the more adaptable you are, the more probable it is that you will find a rewarding experience."

Students will need to "cast a broader portfolio of activities," Tierie said. Students may want to use the upcoming break to travel to locations where they want to work and participate in

see Jobs, page 7

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By the numbers

6.8%
August 2008 prediction for hiring increase

1.3%
October 2008 prediction for hiring increase

More than one half of employers plan to decrease hires from last year

National Association of Colleges and Employers
**Gift guide: you don’t have to break the bank**

**Alisha Axson**
**Mustang Daily**

The economy’s down and everyone’s trying to save money as the holiday season approaches. However, there are plenty of ways to give presents to your loved ones without racking up more credit card debt. Depending on who you’re giving them to and how much money and effort you want to spend on each person, there’s something for everyone and every budget.

**Themed Gift Baskets**

If you have a little more money and time, themed gift baskets can be a fun way to please a friend with a particular passion. Do you have a friend who is always at the movies or buys the latest DVDs? Load up a basket with bags of microwaveable popcorn, her favorite type of candy (kilogram of course) and bottles of soda or other favorite beverage. Include a gift certificate to a local movie theater or a beloved DVD store. If it’s older, Best Buy probably has it for under $10.

If your roommate is so obsessed with his car that he asks everyone to take off their shoes before getting inside, buy items so he can take care of his baby all year round. Include soap, sponges, a squeegee, car wax and special products for shining up his wheels and interior. This is something that can be done with everyone you need to give a gift to. Just think a little and you’ll figure out a good idea.

**Other Ideas**

If none of these ideas spark your interest, there are still tons of possibilities out there. If you have a big group of friends or a lot of roommates who you’re worried about giving gifts to, call to talk to them and organize a white elephant party or stocking exchange. There are different rules for white elephant gift exchanges so look them up online and modify them to fit your needs. This is an easy way to include everyone without breaking the bank.

For a stocking exchange, have all your roommates decorate a stocking and then draw names to see who fills which person’s stocking. Miniature products can be found in the travel aisle of stores like Rite Aid or Longs. Don’t forget to check out dollar stores for great deals too.

If you want something creative but don’t have the time to make anything, stop by the Craft Center in the University Union. Many student-made items are for sale, such as various ceramic pieces. “It’s a great place to get unique, handmade art pieces,” said Megan Campbell, an instructor at the Craft Center. “You can also come in and make things for friends and family. Ceramics is a big one that people come in and do for the family, as well as stained glass.”

Remember, it’s not the amount of money you spend on your loved ones that matters. It’s a cliché but one that’s true: it’s the thought that counts. People will love that you took time to make or put together their gift. Your wallet deserves a break just like you do this holiday season so take some time, be creative and have fun.
Employers shedding jobs as recession deepens

Jeannine Aversa
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the economy sinking faster, employers are giving more Americans dreaded pink slips right before the holidays.

The Labor Department releases a new report Friday that's expected to show the employment market deteriorated in November at an alarming clip as the deepening recession engulfed the country.

After bulging to a 14-year high of 6.5 percent in October, the unemployment rate likely climbed to 6.8 percent last month, according to economists' forecasts. If they are right, that would mark the worst showing in 13 years.

Skittish employers, which have slashed 1.2 million jobs this year alone, probably axed another 320,000 last month, economists forecast. If that's true, the employment rate likely climbed to 6.8 percent last month, according to economists' forecasts. If they are right, that would mark the worst showing in 13 years.

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**Wines**

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ling. Other picks a Washington state merlot, "because I feel they really do that grape well," a hearty California zinfandel and "to show that he is an expert on that grape well," a hearty California zinfandel. "I feel they really do gone back to the administrating of that wine," he said. They compromised by serving wine at state dinners — but refilling the glasses slowly, writes historian William S. Selin in "The President's House: A History." A policy of serving only U.S. wines goes back to the administration of Lyndon Johnson. That turned out to be a slight problem for French wine fan Richard Nixon who sometimes wrapped a napkin around his bottles to obscure their origins. Halberstam said. And then there is Jimmy Carter who didn't serve hard liquor at the White House, but did serve wine and went on to practice a family tradition of winemaking.

"What will you be doing over the holiday break?"

Going to see family and possibly going to Trinity for an interview about college.

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**Economy**

continued from page 6

estimate is correct, it would represent the deepest cut to monthly payrolls since October 2001, when the economy was suffering through a recession following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Employers are slashing costs to the bone as they try to cope with sagging appetites from customers in the United States as well as in other countries, which are struggling with their own economic troubles.

The carnage — including the worst financial crisis since the 1930s — is hitting a wide range of companies. Just in recent days, household names like AT&T Inc., DuPont, JPMorgan Chase & Co., as well as jet engine maker Pratt & Whitney, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp., and mining company Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. announced layoffs.

**Jobs**

continued from page 4

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Human noise drowns out song of whales

Ariel David

The songs that whales and dolphins use to communicate, orient themselves and find mates are being drowned out by human-made noises in the world's oceans, U.N. officials and environmental groups said Wednesday.

That sound pollution — everything from increasing commercial shipping and seismic surveys to a new generation of military sonar — is not only confounding the mammals, it is also further threatening the survival of these endangered animals.

Studies show that these cetaceans, which once communicated over thousands of miles (kilometers) to forage and mate, are losing touch with each other, the experts said on the sidelines of a U.N. wildlife conference in Rome.

"Call it a cocktail-party effect," said Mark Simmonds, director of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, a Britain-based NGO. "You have to speak louder and louder until no one can hear each other anymore."

An indirect source of noise pollution may also be coming from climate change, which is altering the chemistry of the oceans and making sound travel farther through sea water, experts said.

"Representatives of more than 100 governments are gathered in Rome for a meeting of the U.N.-backed Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The agenda of the conference, which ends Friday, includes ways to increase protection for endangered species, including measures to mitigate underwater noise," Environmental groups also are increasingly finding cases of beached whales and dolphins that can be linked to sound pollution, Simmonds said.

Marine mammals are turning up on the world's beaches with tissue damage similar to that found in divers suffering from decompression sickness. The condition, known as the bends, causes gas bubbles to form in the bloodstream upon surfacing too quickly.

Scientists say the use of military sonar or seismic testing may have scared the animals into diving and surfacing beyond their physical limits, Simmonds said.

Several species of cetaceans are already listed as endangered or critically endangered from other causes, including hunting, chemical pollution, collisions with boats and entanglements with fishing equipment. Though it is not yet known precisely how many animals are affected, sound pollution is increasingly being recognized as a serious factor, the experts said.

As an example, Simmonds offered two incidents this year which, though still under study, could be linked to noise pollution; the beaching of more than 100 melon-headed whales in Madagascar and that of two dozen common dolphins on the southern British coast.

"The sound of a seismic test, used to locate hydrocarbons beneath the seabed, can spread 10,000 miles (3,000 kilometers) under water," said Veronica Frank, an official with the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

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Monday, December 8, 2008

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Mandarin Chinese Program sees resurgence with new professor

With China rapidly rising as an economic powerhouse, more and more Cal Poly students have been taking advantage of the modern languages and literatures department's Mandarin Chinese language program.

The program, which has been plagued with financial woes and a lack of instructors willing to stay for an extended period of time, is starting to gather momentum again with current full-time lecturer Sophia Chen.

"We hope to build," said Brian Kennelly, chair of modern languages and literatures. "The two countries that really are going to eclipse the United States if they haven’t already done so, are both Asian countries: China and India. And so for that reason alone, it behooves all of our students to at least know something about Asian culture."

Chen agreed, saying that not only are her students learning a language, they are learning how to handle a new culture with respect.

"Some students told me they want to learn Chinese just because they want to see the mysterious Chinese culture," she said. "Culture is important too because if you know only the language, you don’t know how to interact with people in China, and then you’re going have some problems too."

In helping to bring that cultural experience to Cal Poly, Chen said she is planning to have a traditional Chinese New Year’s celebration at the end of January. Since the Chinese New Year follows the lunar calendar, the exact date is different every year.

Chen also said she wants to have Chinese movie nights once or twice a month. She will be on hand to answer any questions about Chinese culture after the films, which will have English subtitles.

Kennelly pointed out that cultural sensitivity is going to be vitally important because students who wish to do business with the Chinese will have to follow a different social blueprint than has been done in the past. "(Foreigners) will probably not want work under the same rules that people in the 20th century did, and that is play by the United

see Mandarin, page 10

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see Mandarin, page 10
**Australian ‘Gone with the Wind’ is glorious**

Kara Peracchio

After watching the epic sweeping ‘Australia,’ it is hard to know where to start. This deep-dugged and rich story is directed by Baz Luhrmann’s ode to his homeland. It is beautiful, terrifying, romantic and stunning. The most striking aspect of the film is the scenery of Australia. The country itself is an actor in the film and lends a beautiful backdrop for Luhrmann’s original story to unfold. There are many traits in the film that I find in common with “Gone with the Wind” (romance, racial prejudices and battle scenes) but it is thoroughly new while paying homage to the old at the same time. If you are a fan of Luhrmann’s three other features, “Strictly Ballroom,” “Romeo + Juliet” and “Moulin Rouge,” this film will not disappoint you in the least.

The story begins with the young narrator, Nullah (Brandon Walters), a half-white, half-Aboriginal boy who is derogatorily referred to throughout much of the movie as “half-caste” or “creamy.” Nullah witnesses the death of Lord Maitland, the owner of the Carney Cattle Company, where the owner, King Carney (Bryan Brown), is determined to buy the farm from Lady Ashley and create a monopoly on cattle meat. She is assisted by the Drover (People Magazine’s Sexiest Man Alive, Hugh Jackman), a man who works for no one and wants only to drive the cattle.

This is the story at times confusing with several intersecting plotlines, but once it works itself out, it is a truly gripping movie. Luhrmann includes many subplots in his story, the Stolen Generation of Aboriginal children and the subsequent racism against the native Australians, World War II, Lady Ashley coming to view Nullah as her own child, a drove from Faraway Downs to Darwin and of course, the romance between the Drover and Lady Ashley. I had never seen Jackman in a movie before, but I thought his turn as the Drover (I do wonder what his real name is) seemed natural for the Aussie actor.

He certainly was good-looking and landed a few laughs. Amongst the numerous Australians seen in the film, the Drover is one of the only people to protest against the treatment and castigation the Aborigines face.

Jackman and Kidman also had believable chemistry and worked well together. Kidman was very good as the coldextérieur Lady Ashley who later has a change of heart when meeting the Faraway Downs people and really seeing Australia. His interactions with Nullah were precious and very touching.

Although I personally hate ‘Wuthering Heights’ (it was nice how “Australia” wore the classic film in as a major piece of the story’s fabric. Bringing Oz to the land called Oz was a creative touch.

The characters and sets done by Luhrmann’s wife, Catherine Martin, were perfect. The costumes and sets done by Luhrmann’s wife, Catherine Martin, were perfect.

The co-continues and sets done by Luhrmann’s wife, Catherine Martin, were perfect.

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**Mandarin**

**States’ rules. We’re going to have to play by their rules,” Kennelly said. “We’re going to need to be communicating with the Chinese in their own language using what we know about our own culture on their own terms versus having them do everything in English and visiting us here in the United States.”

Morgan O’Hara, a graduate student getting a master’s degree in business administration, found himself drawn to Chen’s class at first for the “novelty” of it. After one quarter, he was hooked.

“You wouldn’t recommend the class to anyone who wants to get an easy grade but if you want to learn Chinese or you’re interested in Chinese culture, I think it’s definitely worth your while,” O’Hara said. “It’s a big world. It’s really important so I think it would be a great benefit to Cal Poly students that they have this opportunity and this advantage.”

Although the program’s future seems much more secure than it has been in the past, Kennelly said the more students that sign up, the more likely it is to advance and perhaps someday become a larger part of the modern languages and literatures program.

“The basic step would be of course to get students to be studying Mandarin,” Kennelly said. “At five or 10 years, we’ll look back and say ‘wow, look how far we’ve come.’ I’ll do whatever I can to help it.”

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Perhaps the best thing to be said about Britney Spears is that, even during one of the most public breakdowns in music history, few ever doubted her. It was only a question of when, not if, she would orchestrate her comeback.

The comeback frenzy is, of course, based around her sixth album, aptly titled “Circus,” which comes out Dec. 2 on her 27th birthday.

For someone like Spears, there exists a separate, distinctive checklist for what constitutes a successful comeback. A hit record would be the best weapon for any musician; for Spears, her signature abs and intricate choreography are as much requirements as a No. 1 hit (which she already achieved with the hypnotically repetitive single, “Womanizer”). As for the return of the abs on which her career has been based, I have to admit I had some doubt. But after watching the MTV documentary, “Britney: For the Record,” it’s clear that the new Spears is thin, glowing and with a full head of hair. Sweet n’ saucy looks: check.

As for the choreography she has a lot to make up for since her disastrous 2007 VMA performance. “Womanizer,” however, has all the elements of a good Spears video: wigs, sharp choreography and her slapping around some poor, clueless hunk. Sweet moves: check.

Spears’ last two record titles have been suggestively characteristic of her respective condition at each time. “Blackout” in 2007 could easily describe the comatose vacation she took from her career and persona. However, “Circus” describes pretty much every aspect of her life as of late, from her personal life and mental state to the media frenzy surrounding her.

Fortunately, the album isn’t too circus-heavy. Instead, the songs have a uniformity of fluid party beats, although a bit more subdued than the in-your-face clubbiness of “Blackout.” The album is strong, uniting a sweet, silky-voiced Spears with a “not-that-innocent” Spears to make a dance album with intricate yet catchy melodies and solid, polished songs. The album has a sense of freshness with new elements of maturity, honesty and confidence that somehow come through in her voice, which, if in the past ever sounded as if it was trying too hard, now sounds confident and convincing. For example, Spears owns in the title track, “Circus,” where she opens haughtily, “I’m a put-on-a-show kind of girl.” This is the song that reintroduces Britney Spears as the Queen of Pop.

Another song that lets her personality shine is the ballad, “Out From Under.” This gentle gem sees Spears revealing a vulnerable quality similar to “Blackout.” “Why Should I Be Sad,” except the current one gives personal hints in small doses as opposed to past songs’ specific biographical details about her public image and tabloid woes. “Out From Under” is more vague but still shows her vulnerability. She does not make herself the focus of the entire album, which makes it more balanced and leaves us wanting more.

If there were a dud on “Circus,” it would have to be “Mini Papa.” With hints of islandy Cuban flavor, it is the see Spears, page 12.
Australia
continued from page 10
are gorgeous and really fit the look of the film. It is part classic Hollywood epic, part war movie and
part fairy tale. Australia is refreshing in an Oscar seas­
sen’s eyes; many films that are based on acclaimed
novels or plays, Lurhmann’s films tend to divide
people; they either love him or hate him.
Perhaps that is part of his charm as a director, but
I expect it to receive nominations for cinema­
ography, art direction and original screenplay. In a
crowded Oscar field for best actor, I think Jackman
is a long shot, but he truly is the most compelling
figure in the movie, aside from the terrific young
Walters as Nullah.
“Australia” will leave you breathless and I per­
sonally can’t wait to visit the country with its beau­
tiful scenery and engaging people. I also applaud
Lurhmann for raising awareness about the Stolen
Generation of the Aboriginal children and taking a
stance: The Australian government just this year is­
sued a formal apology to those displaced people.
I highly recommend Australia: it is truly a worth­
while trip to Oz.

Spears
continued from page 11
silliest track on the album with moans, squeals and
suggestive comments.
“Speaking of vocals, ”Circus” manages to bal­
ance both showing off Spears’ trademark syrupy
voice and drowning it in effects. Her voice still has
a special quality in its own right, definitely singing
more than she did on the talk- and chant-heavy
“Blackout.”
Overall the album is a success with plenty of
dance hits and fantastic writing in the songs, “Kill
the Lights,” “Shattered Glass” and, of course, “Cir­
cus.” The album resurrects Britney Spears into not
just her former self, but a new Britney Spears who
is more honest and complex, and therefore more
likeable.
Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratron

Kirk was always extra careful to make sure he flushed in order to avoid any bad “Captain’s Log” jokes.

Across
1. Summer drinks
5. the aisle (Dissipation)
11. Like William Howard Taft
14. Actress who played a presidential candidate’s wife on “The West Wing”
15. Wilderness home
16. Ginger
17. Early November occasion in the U.S.
19. Zero
20. Singer Menn
21. The Blue Jays, on scoreboards
22. Ribicoff and Lincoln
23. Dropped a size
25. Barn topper
26. Coast

Down
1. Relaxed
2. Sonder’s underdog
3. Religious recluse
4. “Attack, Rex!”
5. Baba
6. Co. captain?
7. Trade
8. Hug, in a way
9. Beatles drummer
10. Nondairy milk source
11. Water pump
12. Not recognizable
13. Kennedy-era launch
14. President pro tempore
15. Long-legged shotput
16. Beethoven dedication
17. Clinton theme
18. Mrs. Perk

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LOST “Ollie” black lab mix Near Cal Poly 11/17. 2 years old, medium build, very shy, little white on chest. REWARD (559) 760-6119

Announcements
Volunteer at Cal Poly Student Community Services. URI Room 217 (805) 756-5834
Casualties of consumerism

greater than people think

Sabrina G. Lee

Jednaya Damour was doing his job. Like the rest of his co-workers at the Wal-Mart at the Green Acres Mall in Valley Stream, N.Y., he signed up for an early morning shift on Black Friday — the "official" first shopping day of the holiday season. But when shoppers forced their way through the doors at 5 a.m., Damour was thrown back onto the linoleum tiles by a horde of shoppers eager to snatch the best bargains they could find. He suffered fatal injuries crushed beneath a chaotic stampede of more than 2,000 fanatical buyers.

The irony of restless holiday-giving has never been so completely manifested. Damour's demise is just another tragic example of how far our consumer culture has gone astray. As Joe Nocera, a professor at the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California,加州, suggested, we may attribute the cart-load mounds of the Wal-Mart shoppers in question to "a sort of fear and panic of not having enough."

How far are we willing to let this "acquisitive lust" take us? Damour's death is emblematic of the invisible price tag of the consumerism in which we so readily and thoughtlessly participate.

Numerous studies prove that overconsumption by the wealthiest nations poses enormous threats to the environment. In "Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism," Richard Robbins discusses the enormous extent to which the production, processing, and consumption of commoditied stuff up limited reserves of natural resources and produce toxic byproducts, pollutants and waste. Yet, as Robbins goes on to point out, fanatic consumerism reveals the least attention of all the major causes for pollution and destruction for both political and economic reasons. Unchecked, commodity production continues to wreak havoc on the environment. Fanatic consumerism is also directly linked to world hunger, poverty and suffering. According to professor John Maddox of the London School of Economics, the global use of land for the cultivation of tobacco "denies 10 to 20 million people of food."

Furthermore, the 1998 Human Development Report revealed that rampant consumer culture inevitably lead to "circumstances that are exploitative of workers" and exerts negative psychological pressures on shoppers, leading them to make decisions that are financially harmful or even disastrous. For our daily extravagances — indeed, even for our holiday gifts — we can thus sacrifice life and wellbeing around the world because we can afford what we want, which means we could never be ours for the taking. Over consummation in the United States and other wealthy countries comes not only at the financial cost to consumers, but also at the expense of our environment and many human lives that are lost or degraded needlessly every year. As the wastes and detritus, it seems clear that reckless greed played a leading role in the creation of the current financial disaster. We should all consider our own motives and their far-reaching, indirect effects in light of that calamity.

In short, we cannot, as a Wal-Mart slogan urges us, "Save money. Live better." What is this motto other than a consumerist rewriting of "Have cake and eat it, too?"

As long as we seek out goods produced on a shoestring budget halfway around the world — with all the waste and detritus, it seems clear that reckless greed played a leading role in the creation of the current financial disaster. We should all consider our own motives and their far-reaching, indirect effects in light of that calamity.

LETTERS

Can't "prove" science, but try defying gravity

In reference to Ian Nachreiner's column, "Global warming: An unproven theory..." in Thursday's article "Conservation: The Ideology of Individual Responsibility," I would like to point out that nothing in science is ever proven. A scientific theory is proposed, hypothesis is formulated by observation or experiment, which has repeatedly without unbiased attempts at falsification. Science deals in a currency of probability, not absolutes. No scientific theory is ever proven.

In your effort to further conservative ideology by instilling uncertainty and skepticism in the minds of the scientifically illiterate, I urge you to call into question a lack of proof for the theory of general relativity. Do you not fall toward earth like the rest of us? Or make the statement, "There is no proof for the germ theory.?"

Now, you can claim AIDS was spontaneously generated to kill gay people. Or, a personal favorite of conservatives, question the theory of evolution. I suppose you were created by the Flying Spaghetti Monster, or was it Kahl, or The Tiny Orbing Trampot, or which one won in God? That's it, God.

Craig Jacobson
biological sciences alumnus

Conservatives support bailouts; who's supporting responsibility now?

Every now and then, I will read something in the Mustang Daily that is so ridiculous and illogical that I will feel prompted to write a response. Thank you Ian Nachreiner for supplying me with just such a column. Your piece, "Conservation: The ideology of individual responsibility," was so full of holes and misguided information that if it was a business venture, it would surely go bankrupt.

In your column, you talked about liberal elites "mammonizing a state of fear to enrich their own pocketbooks with green industries," while in reality we have entered a war in Iraq under a state of fear to enrich the companies of the conservative elite: Halliburton, Big Oil, and the Industrial Military Complex.

You also said that government should be "willing to let businesses fail, rather than bailing them out."

But conservatives insist on bailing out the U.S. auto industry and airline industry time and time again, not to mention the $800 billion bailout for Wall Street.

This amount of money makes social programs look like pocket change.

You write that "government is the worst manager of resources, with the exception of the military." I would argue that the military is the worst manager of resources that there even is been. From the failed "Star Wars" program to unnecessary wars, the military has wasted more money than all of the "liberal" social programs combined.

A trickle-down economy just doesn't work. We must water the roots of the tree to get the fruit.

Gabriel Kaprielian
architecture alumnus
Bilisut' Ablisik'
McShay: Barden ‘best small-school WR’

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

After playing on Saturdays for the past four years, Cal Poly wide receiver Ramses Barden will likely be making the jump to Sundays this fall, according to one high-profile NFL Draft analyst.

In an e-mail sent Thursday to the Mustang Daily, ESPN NFL and college football analyst Todd McShay praised and critiqued Barden, who completed his Cal Poly career Nov. 29.

“I think he should come off the board around the 3rd/4th-round range,” McShay wrote. “In my opinion, he’s the best small-school WR prospect in the senior class.”

McShay, the director of college football analysis for Scouts Inc., has evaluated NFL Draft prospects since 1998. According to ESPN, for whom McShay now is a College Football Insider, “numerous NFL teams have relied on his reports.”

He called the 6-foot-6, 227-pound Barden a “big, physical receiver with good athleticism for his size,” but one “who needs to show the ability to separate from coverage during drills at an all-star game versus better competition.”

Barden, who’ll play in the East-West Shrine Game on Jan. 17 on ESPN2, set Cal Poly career marks for catches (206), receiving yards (4,203) and touchdowns (50), broke Larry Fitzgerald’s all-time NCAA record for consecutive games with a touchdown catch (29) and tied Randy Moss’ all-time Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Divi­sion I-AA) standard of single-season consecutive games with a touchdown catch (11). The Alhambra native finished fourth in the voting last week for the Walter Payton Award, given to the FCS’ best offensive player, and will likely be in­sited to the scouting combine in Indy­napolis from Feb. 18-24.

The combine, known as something of an annual NFL job fair, puts players’ physical and mental talent to test in a series of drills that help scouts from all 32 NFL teams evaluate their skill level.

The most three crucial factors for Barden at the combine, McShay added, will be running the 40-yard dash in the 4.5-second range, “running competitive­ness (for his size) in the shuttle and catching the ball crisply during the ‘gauntlet’ drill” because “his hands are only mediocre” and he “lets too many balls get into his pads.”

The draft’s first two rounds are April 26, with the final five Ap­ril 27.

Three Cal Poly products have been chosen in the draft since 2005. Former Mustang receiver Jordan Beck (2005’s third round) and defensive back Court­ney Brown (2007’s seventh round) were first-day choices, and Newsday re­ported Nov. 3 that an NFL executive listed Barden as one of five “under­the-radar” prospects who could go in the first two rounds.

— Scott Silvey contributed to this re­port.

Boise State’s Ellis Powers (18) leaps over players after intercepting a Fresno State pass Nov. 28. The Broncos’ 61-10 win kept them undefeated, but they went through the year ostracized as a member of a non-BCS conference.

Corey DeMoss
OKLAHOMA CITY, O.KLA.

During halftime of Monday Night Football on Nov. 3, Pres­i­dent-elect Barack Obama declared the need for the BCS system to be replaced by a playoff.

Rep. Neil Abercrombie, who “needs to show the ability to separate from coverage during drills at an all-star game versus better competition,” McShay wrote. “In my opinion, he’s the best small-school WR prospect in the senior class.”

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